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Alain Delpuch

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SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG & WOESSNER/OPEN TV

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EXAMINER

MENDOZA, JUNIOR O

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/661,160	Applicant(s) DELPUCH ET AL.	
	Examiner JUNIOR O. MENDOZA	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 and 41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 and 41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/04/2008 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. **Claim 5** is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 5 does not depend from any other claim as presented by the applicant; which states "The method as set forth in claim, wherein the television...". For examination purposes the examiner will presume that claim 5 depends from claim 1, as previously presented in prosecution.

3. **Claim 11** is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim recites "The method o as set forth in f claim 1", which should be changed to "The method as set forth in claim 1".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter as follows. Claim 41 defines a machine-readable medium which is disclosed as a carrier wave signal; paragraph [0127]. While “functional descriptive material” may be claimed as a statutory product (i.e., a “manufacture”) when embodied on a tangible computer readable medium, a signal embodying that same functional descriptive material is neither a process (i.e., a series of steps per se.) nor a product (i.e., a tangible “thing”) and therefore does not fall within one of the four statutory classes of § 101. Rather, “signal” is a form of energy, in the absence of any physical structure or tangible material.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in

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the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 5 discloses that "the television content and the authoring data are associated using identifiers", however, the specification does not teach such feature. On the other hand, the specification does teach a sender and recipient identifier in paragraphs [0088]-[0090].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 1 – 16, 18 – 31 and 41** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKissick et al (Pub No US 2007/0124795) in view of Goodman et al (Patent No US 6,427,238) further in view of Danker et al (Pub No US 2003/0208777). Hereinafter, referenced as McKissick, Goodman and Danker, respectively.

Regarding **claim 1**, McKissick discloses a method to enable user-authoring of content within an interactive television environment (Paragraphs [0123] - [0124] fig. 17), said method comprising:

communicating television content from a first source system to a headend system, the television content to be presented to a user of a receiver system (Main facility [12] and Television distribution facility [16] distribute program guide data and other information to television equipment [20] via communication path[24], paragraph [0055] also exhibited on fig 1A);

communicating authoring data, said authoring data comprising media information associated with the television content, from a second source system to the headend system (McKissick incorporates application 09/356,270 in its entirety; where application 10/918,753 by DeWeese et al. is a continuation of such incorporated reference; hereinafter referenced as DeWeese. DeWeese discloses in paragraph [0093] also exhibited on fig 9; a real time communication displayed by the set top box application where a program 202 and a chat 204 related to the program are received and displayed simultaneously);

an authoring application (Paragraphs [0123] [0124] also exhibited on figure 17; the user can use a messaging application in order to create messages, i.e. television application);

enable the user to create new authored content, said new authored content including the authoring data associated with the television content as selected by said user (Each set top box 26 implements an interactive television program guide application, which allows the user to send messages, where the program guide is an authoring application; paragraph [0064]; moreover, DeWeese discloses that the television facility distributes the program guide the set top boxes; paragraph [0060]).

However it is noted that McKissick fails to explicitly disclose communicating a television application; and proximate multiplexing together said television content, and said television application at said headend system; communicating said proximate multiplexed television content, and television application from said headend system to the receiver system, the television application being executable by the receiver system.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Goodman discloses communicating an television application; and proximate multiplexing together said television content, and said television application at said headend system (Col. 1 lines 21-32; col. 2 lines 18-51; col. 4 lines 43-60; also exhibited on figs 1 and 5 – multiplexer 14 at broadcast station 10);

communicating said proximate multiplexed television content, and television application from said headend system to the receiver system (Col. 2 lines 18-51; col. 4 lines 43-60; fig 1 – satellite 18 broadcasts data to receiving station 20),

the television application being executable by the receiver system (Col. 2 lines 18-51; col. 4 lines 43-60)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Goodman, for the purpose of transmitting an application to the receiver side in a single transmission medium, saving the source company the need to include different transmission paths for different data which saves them money.

However it is noted that McKissick and Goodman fail to explicitly disclose proximate multiplexing together said television content with said authoring data and communicating said proximate multiplexed television content and authoring data.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Danker discloses proximate multiplexing together said television content with said authoring data and communicating said proximate multiplexed television content and authoring data (Paragraph [0014] also exhibited on figure 1 and 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick and Goodman by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Danker, for the purpose of transmitting messages and television content in a single transmission medium, saving the source company the need to include different transmission paths for different data which saves them money.

Regarding **claim 2**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses receiving, at the headend system, the authoring data from a content source, and associating the authoring data with the television content (Paragraphs [0055] [0057] [0123] [0124] also exhibited on figures 1A and 17).

Regarding **claim 3**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses that the authoring data is contextual to the television content (The information transmitted from facility [12] may also include information on interactive message features such as TV contents or links related to the television programming, paragraph [0053]; moreover, DeWeese discloses in paragraph [0093] also exhibited on fig 9; a real time communication displayed by the set top box application where a program 202 and a chat 204 related to the program are displayed simultaneously).

Regarding **claim 4**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses that the authoring application comprises a messaging application executable by the receiver system to enable the user to include the new authored content within a message (Each set top box 26 implements an interactive television program guide application, which allows the user to send messages, where the program guide is an authoring application; paragraph [0064]; moreover, DeWeese discloses that the television facility distributes the program guide the set top boxes; paragraph [0060]),

and to enable the user to communicate the message (The television message system allows users to send program guide information such as TV program listings, program schedules, and program information as a message to other users, paragraph [0122]).

Regarding **claim 5**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses that the television content and the authoring data are associated using identifiers (DeWeese discloses that the user may send messages to other users in a chat group setting depending on the programs being watched; paragraphs [0123] [0141] also exhibited on fig 9).

Regarding **claim 6**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; however, McKissick fails to explicitly disclose that the multiplexed television content, authoring data, and authoring application comprises a broadcast.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Goodman discloses that the multiplexed television content and authoring application comprises a broadcast (Col. 2 lines 18-51; col. 4 lines 43-60; also exhibited on fig 1 – broadcast signal18).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Goodman, for the purpose of transmitting a application to the receiver side in a single transmission medium, saving the source company the need to include different transmission paths for different data which saves them money.

However, McKissick and Goodman still fail to explicitly disclose that the multiplexed television content, and authoring data comprises a broadcast.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Danker discloses that the multiplexed television content, and authoring data comprises a broadcast (Paragraphs [0014] [0015] also exhibited on figure 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick and Goodman by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Danker, for the purpose of transmitting messages and television content in a single transmission medium, saving the source company the need to include different transmission paths for different data which saves them money, also allowing the television content and the messages to be transmitted to all the receivers and allowing only the receivers meant to receive the messages to be able to have access to them.

Regarding **claim 7**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; however, McKissick fails to explicitly disclose that the source system includes a multiplexer to multiplex the television content and the authoring application.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Goodman discloses that the source system includes a multiplexer to multiplex the television content and the authoring application (Col. 1 lines 21-32; col. 2 lines 18-51; col. 4 lines 43-60; also exhibited on figs 1 and 5 – multiplexer 14 at broadcast station 10);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Goodman, for the purpose of transmitting an application to the receiver side in a single transmission medium, saving the source company the need to include different transmission paths for different data which saves them money.

However it is noted that McKissick and Goodman fail to explicitly disclose that the source system includes a multiplexer to multiplex the television content and the authoring data.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Danker discloses that the source system includes a multiplexer to multiplex the television content and the authoring data (Paragraph [0014] also exhibited on figure 1 and 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick and Goodman by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Danker, for the purpose of transmitting messages and television content in a single transmission medium, saving the source company the need to include different transmission paths for different data which saves them money.

Regarding **claim 8**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses that said authoring data comprises text, images, and audio associated with said television content (Paragraph [0126]; the user can send text, video stills and audio messages related to a program).

Regarding **claim 9**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses presenting a user interface for display on the receiver system (Paragraph [0070]; graphical user interface),

the user interface to receive the user identification of the portion of the authoring data to be included within the new authored content (Paragraph [0130]; programming related content or authoring data can be attached to the message [324], where for example the score of the game being watched can be send together with the message as shown in figure 18 with a "NFL score update" title).

However it is noted that McKissick fails to explicitly disclose executing the authoring application.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Goodman discloses executing the authoring application (Col. 2 lines 18-51; col. 4 lines 43-60; graphical interface; where the applicant introduced Goodman as a reference in paragraph [0041]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Goodman, for the purpose of transmitting a application to the receiver side in case that the receiver side needs it.

Regarding **claim 10**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 9; moreover, McKissick discloses the user interface presents the authoring data in association with the television content at the receiver system for selection by said user (Paragraph [0130]; programming related content or authoring data can be attached to the message [324], where for example the score of the game being watched can be send together with the message as shown in figure 18).

Regarding **claim 11**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses at the receiver system, executing the authoring application to transmit the authored content as part of a message to a recipient (programming related content or authoring data can be attached to the message [324] being sent to another Television messaging system, where for example the score of the game being watched can be send together with the message as shown in figure 18, paragraph [0130]).

Regarding **claim 12**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 11; moreover, McKissick discloses executing the authoring application to prompt the user to provide identification information for the recipient (in figure 18 the message received identifies who was the sender of the message, in this case the message was sent by "Adam").

Regarding **claim 13**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses the receiver system is an interactive television system, and the authoring application is an interactive television application (set top box [26] contains a processor to handle tasks associated with implementing an interactive television program guide application containing television message features, paragraph [0064]).

Regarding **claim 14**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses present a virtual keyboard for display on the receiver system, the virtual keyboard to facilitate alphanumeric input by said user (television screen keyboard [50] illustrated in fig 1C, paragraph [0071]).

However it is noted that McKissick fails to explicitly disclose at the receiver system, executing the authoring application.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Goodman discloses at the receiver system, executing the authoring application (Col. 2 lines 18-51; col. 4 lines 43-60; graphical interface; where the applicant introduced Goodman as a reference in paragraph [0041]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Goodman, for the purpose of transmitting a application to the receiver side in case that the receiver side needs it.

Regarding **claim 15**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses at the receiver system, receive alphanumeric input from a user (Television screen keyboard [50] illustrated in fig 1C which allows the user to input a message, paragraph [0071]),

and to identify the alphanumeric input for inclusion along with authoring data within the authored content (Television messaging system display screen [421] allows

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the user to enter the user identity information, name [423] and address [427], paragraph [0094] also exhibited on fig 6B).

However it is noted that McKissick fails to explicitly disclose at the receiver system, executing the authoring application.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Goodman discloses at the receiver system, executing the authoring application (Col. 2 lines 18-51; col. 4 lines 43-60; graphical interface; where the applicant introduced Goodman as a reference in paragraph [0041]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Goodman, for the purpose of transmitting a application to the receiver side in case that the receiver side needs it.

Regarding **claim 16**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses at the receiver system, executing the authoring application to receive a recipient identifier to identify a recipient of a message that includes the authored content (The set top box application may obtain the recipient's destination address information necessary to forward the message, paragraph [0087]).

Regarding **claim 18**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 16; moreover, McKissick discloses that the message comprises an e-mail message, and the recipient identifier comprises an e-mail address (the destination address may be an e-mail address where the electronic messages may be sent, paragraph [0087]).

Regarding **claim 19**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 16; moreover, McKissick discloses that the message comprises an instant message, and the recipient identifier comprises an instant message handle (Paragraph [0080]).

Regarding **claim 20**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 16; moreover, McKissick discloses communicating the message via a return path to the source system (Television distribution facility [16] distributes program guide data and other information, including messages, to the user television equipment [20] via communications paths [24], paragraph [0055]).

However it is noted that McKissick fails to explicitly disclose executing the authoring application at the receiver system

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Goodman discloses executing the authoring application at the receiver system (Col. 2 lines 18-51; col. 4 lines 43-60; graphical interface; where the applicant introduced Goodman as a reference in paragraph [0041]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Goodman, for the purpose of transmitting a application to the receiver side in case that the receiver side needs it.

Regarding **claim 21**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 20; moreover, McKissick discloses that the return path is a bi-directional communication channel (communication paths [24] are preferably bidirectional to support messaging and to have sufficient bandwidth to allow television content distribution, paragraph [0055]).

Regarding **claim 22**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method as set forth in claim 1; moreover, McKissick discloses that the authoring data includes at least one of a group of information types including numeric, alphanumeric, picture, logo, icon, video, and audio data (The information transmitted from facility [12] may also include information on interactive message features such as TV contents, surveys, evaluations, promotions or links related to the television programming, paragraph [0053]; where the television message system displays an alphanumeric promotion related to the television programming where the viewer can participate, paragraph [0107] also exhibited on fig 17).

Regarding **claim 23**, McKissick discloses a system, said system comprising including: a first source system to distribute television content (Main facility [12] and Television distribution facility [16] distribute program guide data and other information to television equipment [20] via communication path[24], paragraph [0055] also exhibited on fig 1A. Moreover, since each television equipment 20 can act as a television content source by sending content related messages to other television equipments 20);

a second source system to generate authoring data (Paragraph [0127] fig 18; each television equipment 20 can act as a television content source by sending content related messages to other television equipments 20);

an authoring application (Paragraphs [0123] [0124] also exhibited on figure 17; the user can use a messaging application in order to create messages, i.e. television application);

said authoring data comprising media information associated with said television content (McKissick incorporates application 09/356,270 in its entirety; where application 10/918,753 by DeWeese et al. is a continuation of such incorporated reference; hereinafter referenced as DeWeese. DeWeese discloses in paragraph [0093] also exhibited on fig 9; a real time communication displayed by the set top box application where a program 202 and a chat 204 related to the program are received and displayed simultaneously);

a broadcast system to broadcast said television content and authoring data to a plurality of receiver systems (Paragraphs [0013] [0052] fig 1A);

and a receiver system to receive the television content and authoring data from the broadcast system (Paragraph [0087]; set top box),

said authoring application allowing a user to create new authored content with the authoring data (Paragraph [0122] and [0126]; the television message system allows users to send program guide information such as TV program listings, program schedules, and program information as a message to other users using their email address or as an instant message).

However it is noted that McKissick fails to explicitly disclose a multiplexer to proximate multiplex together said television content, and television application; and to broadcast said multiplexed television content and television application; and a receiver system to receive the multiplexed television content, and television application from the broadcast system.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Goodman discloses a multiplexer to proximate multiplex together said television content, and television application; and to broadcast said multiplexed television content and television application; and a receiver system to receive the multiplexed television content, and television application from the broadcast system (Col. 1 lines 21-32; col. 2 lines 18-51; col. 4 lines 43-60; also exhibited on figs 1 and 5 – multiplexer 14 at broadcast station 10).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Goodman, for the purpose of transmitting an application

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to the receiver side in a single transmission medium, saving the source company the need to include different transmission paths for different data which saves them money.

However it is noted that McKissick and Goodman fail to explicitly disclose proximate multiplexing together said television content and said authoring data and broadcast said multiplexed television content and authoring data.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Danker discloses proximate multiplexing together said television content and said authoring data and broadcast said multiplexed television content and authoring data (Paragraph [0014] also exhibited on figure 1 and 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick and Goodman by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Danker, for the purpose of transmitting messages and television content in a single transmission medium, saving the source company the need to include different transmission paths for different data which saves them money.

Regarding **claim 24**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose all the limitations of claim 24; therefore, claim 24 is rejected for the same reasons as in claim 5.

Regarding **claim 25**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the system as set forth in claim 23; moreover, McKissick discloses that the first source system is the same as the second source system (Paragraph [0127] fig 18; each television equipment

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20 can act as a television content source by sending content related messages to other television equipments 20).

Regarding **claim 26**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the system as set forth in claim 23; moreover, McKissick discloses that the authoring application comprises a messaging application (Paragraph [0080]).

Regarding **claim 27**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the system as set forth in claim 23; moreover, McKissick that the television content is associated to the authoring data using timecodes (Paragraphs [0099] [0100]; the messaging system may be limited to the time period that a particular program is being broadcasted).

Regarding **claim 28**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the system as set forth in claim 23; moreover, McKissick discloses that the receiver system is to communicate the authored content to a messaging system for inclusion within the message (Paragraphs [0122] and [0126]).

Regarding **claims 29, 30 and 31**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose all the limitations of claims 29, 30 and 31; therefore, claims 29, 30 and 31 are rejected for the same reasons as in claims 17, 18 and 19, respectively.

Regarding **claim 41**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose all the limitations of claim 41; therefore, claim 41 is rejected for the same reasons as in claim 1.

8. **Claims 17** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKissick in view of Goodman further in view of Danker further in view of Angel et al (Pub No US 2004/0025192). Hereinafter referenced as Angel.

Regarding **claim 17**, McKissick, Goodman and Danker disclose the method of claim 16; however, it is noted that McKissick, Goodman and Danker fail to explicitly disclose that the message comprises a SMS message, and the recipient identifier comprises a telephone number.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Angel discloses that the message comprises a SMS message, and the recipient identifier comprises a telephone number (SMS messages can be send from TV set top box [12] to a cellular phone [14], paragraph [0032] and [0033] also exhibited on fig 1, it is well inherent that a telephone number will be used in order to establish connectivity between the phone and the television set).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify McKissick, Goodman and Danker by specifically providing such elements, as taught by Angel, for the purpose of allowing the users to send messages to not only other television sets but to telephone systems as well, which provides more flexibility since people are not watching television at all times, therefore this is a good alternative.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUNIOR O. MENDOZA whose telephone number is (571)270-3573. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig can be reached on (571)272-7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Junior O Mendoza
Examiner
Art Unit 2623

/J. O. M./
September 11, 2008

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